

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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TINA BRADWAY, Individually and as
Administratrix of the Estate of
TONY BRADWAY,

Plaintiff,

-against-

Civil Action No.
09-CV-3177
(JFB) (MLO)

THE TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON, LINDA A. KABOT,
OFFICER JAMES KIERNAN, OFFICER ERIC SICKLES,
OFFICER VINCENT CAGNO, OFFICER STEVE
FRANKENBACH, OFFICER DAVID PETERS,
OFFICER WILLIAM KIERNAN and OFFICER MONTALBANO,

Defendants.

-----X

April 13, 2011

10:34 a.m.

1425 RXR Plaza

Uniondale, New York

DEPOSITION of CHARLES WETLI, M.D., the
Expert Witness herein, testifying on behalf of
the Defendants, taken by the Plaintiff, pursuant
to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Notice,
held at the above-mentioned time and place,
before Lori Anne Curtis, a Notary Public of the
State of New York.

CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

RUSKIN, MOSCOU & FALTISCHEK, INC.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1425 RXR Plaza
Uniondale, New York 11556
BY: THOMAS TELESKA, ESQ.

DEVITT SPELLMAN BARRETT, LLP
Attorneys for Defendants
50 Route 111
Smithtown, New York 11787
BY: JELTE DEJONG, ESQ.

FEDERAL STIPULATIONS

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by
and between the parties hereto, through their
respective counsel, that the certification,
sealing and filing of the within examination
will be and the same are hereby waived;

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
that all objections, except as to the form of
the question, will be reserved to the time of
the trial;

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that
the within examination may be signed before any
Notary Public with the same force and effect as
if signed and sworn to before this Court.

1
2 C H A R L E S W E T L I, M. D., the
3 Witness herein, having been first duly
4 sworn by a Notary Public in and of the
5 State of New York, was examined and
6 testified as follows:

7 EXAMINATION BY

8 MR. TELESKA:

9 Q Would you please state your full
10 name for the record.

11 A Dr. Charles Wetli.

12 Q What is your current address?

13 A 2 Berkey -- B-E-R-K-E-Y -- Place,
14 Alpine, New Jersey 07620-3798.

15 MR. TELESKA: Good morning,
16 Doctor. We met before informally.
17 My name is Tom Telesca. I
18 represent Tina Bradway
19 individually and as the
20 administratrix of the estate of
21 her son, Tony Bradway.

22 We're here today to take
23 your deposition as an expert
24 witness. I assume you have been
25 deposed before.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 THE WITNESS: Correct.

3 MR. TELESKA: Okay. So,
4 you understand the process, and
5 what I'll try to do is be clear
6 with my questions, but if there's
7 something that you don't
8 understand, please feel free to
9 ask me to clarify the question, or
10 if there's a term that I'm
11 misusing or is not clear to you,
12 I'd ask that you ask me to
13 rephrase the question.

14 THE WITNESS: Correct, I
15 understand.

16 MR. TELESKA: Also, I'd ask
17 that you give me the opportunity
18 to complete my question just as
19 much as I'll give you the
20 opportunity to complete your
21 answer before the next question.

22 THE WITNESS: Sounds fair.

23 MR. TELESKA: If at any
24 time you need to take a break, let
25 me know, and we can accommodate

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 you.

3 Q How did you prepare for today's
4 deposition, if at all?

5 A I reviewed my file.

6 Q And what is your file?

7 A It consists of a letter I wrote to
8 Ms. DeJong on the 15th of November 2010, some
9 typewritten notes I made on October 17, 2010,
10 and the various materials that were supplied to
11 me, including covering letters, police reports,
12 medical records, autopsy and toxicology reports
13 and a variety of depositions.

14 MR. TELESKA: Okay, can we
15 mark this as W-1.

16 (Exhibit W-1, Opinion
17 letter of Dr. Wetli with CV,
18 consisting of multiple pages, was
19 marked for identification, as of
20 this date.)

21 Q Dr. Wetli, I'm going to show you
22 what's been marked as Exhibit W-1 (handing).
23 Can you tell me, do you recognize that document?

24 A (Witness peruses document.)

25 Yes, it is the letter -- the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.
2 opinion letter I wrote on November 15, 2010 and
3 it's a copy of my CV, current as of the 4th of
4 October 2010. The last page is my fee schedule,
5 and in between is a list of court testimony from
6 2006 through mid-2010.

7 Q Okay.

8 And on the first page of the
9 November 15, 2010 letter to Ms. DeJong, you list
10 a number of items that were reviewed. Are these
11 the items that comprise your file?

12 A Everything except an opinion
13 letter by Dr. Blum. Apparently, I received that
14 after the 15th.

15 Q Okay.

16 And then you also mentioned before
17 that you also have some notes in your file?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Can I just take a minute to look
20 through the file?

21 A Sure (handing).

22 Q (Counsel peruses file.)

23 Okay, I'd like to just go over
24 some background information, first. Can you
25 tell me, Dr. Wetli, who your current employer

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 is.

3 A Basically, I'm self-employed. I
4 retired from being the chief medical examiner
5 and director of forensic sciences for Suffolk
6 County, New York in August of 2006, and since
7 then I've been doing only consulting work.

8 Q What kind of consulting work do
9 you do? .

10 A Anything in the realm of forensic
11 pathology. It's predominantly cases like this,
12 wrongful death, medical practice, criminal, but
13 basically working -- being retained by attorneys
14 to give an opinion.

15 Q And you have been doing that since
16 roughly August, September 2006?

17 A Full time. Prior to that, I did
18 it part time as separate from my duties as a
19 chief medical examiner, but really I started
20 doing consulting work in 1995, but then in 2006
21 I was doing it full time.

22 Q And I noticed in your CV up until
23 1995, it seems as if you were living in Florida.

24 A That is correct.

25 Q And while you were in Florida you

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 weren't doing any of the kind of consulting work
3 that you are doing now?

4 A Very rarely.

5 Q Does your current consulting
6 business have a name?

7 A No. Sole proprietor.

8 Q And if you look at your -- what's
9 been marked as W-1, which is the November 15,
10 2010 letter, is it fair for me to refer to that
11 as your report in this matter?

12 A Sure.

13 Q After your report is your CV?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Does your CV accurately reflect
16 your educational background?

17 A Yes, it does.

18 Q And you testified earlier this CV
19 was prepared October 4, 2010?

20 A Correct -- it was updated on
21 October 4, 2010.

22 Q That was the last update?

23 A No, the last update was I think in
24 January of this year.

25 Q But at the time you supplied this

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 to Ms. DeJong it was before the most recent
3 update.

4 A Correct.

5 Q Has anything in your educational
6 background changed in the most recent update?

7 A No.

8 Q And the October 2010 CV that we
9 have that's part of W-1, does that accurately
10 reflect the certifications and licenses that you
11 have?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Have there been any new ones since
14 October 2010?

15 A No, there have been no changes as
16 far as certification and licensures.

17 Q In your CV I notice that you are
18 or were at some point licensed to, I guess,
19 practice medicine in Florida, Missouri, New York
20 and New Jersey.

21 A Correct. Right now I have medical
22 licenses in New York and New Jersey. I allowed
23 the one in Florida and Missouri to expire.

24 Q Have you ever had a medical
25 license suspended or revoked?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A Never.

3 Q Have you ever been the subject of
4 a disciplinary investigation, action or
5 proceeding?

6 A Never.

7 Q During the course of your career
8 as a doctor have you ever been affiliated with
9 any hospitals?

10 A One.

11 Q What hospital was that?

12 A Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Miami,
13 Florida.

14 Q Can you tell me the name again?

15 A Cedars of Lebanon.

16 Q When did you become affiliated, or
17 when did you get the privileges at that
18 hospital?

19 A That was in September of 1976.

20 Q When did that end?

21 A September of 1977.

22 Q So it was for one year.

23 A Correct.

24 Q And what was the reason why it
25 ended?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A Because I did not like private
3 practice and I decided to go into forensic
4 pathology.

5 Q Okay, so there was never a time
6 you lost your privileges at any hospital for
7 which you were affiliated.

8 A No, never. Also, I don't know if
9 you call it a hospital affiliation, but when I
10 was, for three years, in the United States Army,
11 as only the United States Army would do during
12 that time, they had me covering the emergency
13 room at a local hospital.

14 Q Where was that?

15 A Japan.

16 Q So for the three years you were in
17 Japan?

18 A Yes. I was mostly working as a
19 pathologist, but they had me on call for
20 emergency room work.

21 Q Does your October 2010 CV
22 accurately reflect your memberships in
23 professional organizations?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Has that been updated since

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 October 2010?

3 A No, memberships have remained the
4 same since then.

5 Q I'd like to just go through your
6 employment history.

7 Is your employment the same thing
8 as what you term "appointments" in your CV?

9 A Basically, yes.

10 Q Okay.

11 So you finished medical school in
12 the spring or early summer of 1969?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And then you were in the Army at
15 that time?

16 A No. After medical school, I did
17 my internship and residency at the University of
18 Miami School of Medicine and worked very briefly
19 for the Dade County Medical Service before going
20 into the United States Army in September of
21 1973.

22 After that, I did one year of
23 private practice at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital,
24 and then joined the Dade County Medical
25 Examiner's Office full time in September of

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 1977.

3 Q And then at some point you became
4 the deputy chief medical examiner in Dade
5 County?

6 A That's correct. I believe that
7 was 1980.

8 Q And that was until January of
9 1995?

10 A Correct. Also, during my tenure
11 in Dade County, Florida I was clinical associate
12 professor of pathology at the Miami School of
13 Medicine.

14 Q And in February of 1995 you moved
15 up to either New York or New Jersey -- I guess,
16 it was New York; is that correct?

17 A Both.

18 Q Okay.

19 A Actually -- it's kind of
20 complicated. Actually, I moved to New Jersey,
21 and worked in Long Island --

22 Q Okay.

23 A -- for all practical purposes;
24 although, I did have an address in Long Island,
25 but I did not live there.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q Was there any specific reason why
3 you left your position in Dade County to come to
4 work on Long Island for Suffolk County?

5 A I had the opportunity to become
6 chief medical examiner in forensic sciences.

7 Q Is that a position that you
8 applied for?

9 A Yes.

10 Q How did you find out about that
11 position?

12 A Because the current chief medical
13 examiner, who was a former resident of mine in
14 Dade County, was leaving that position, and I
15 heard it had become open, so I applied.

16 Q And then also at or about that
17 time did you also teach at SUNY Stony Brook?

18 A Correct. I was clinical professor
19 of pathology at the State University of New York
20 at Stony Brook.

21 Q Dr. Wetli, your October 2010 CV,
22 does it list all the presentations you have
23 given in the last ten years?

24 A No, not at all.

25 Q So are there some additional ones

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 that were prior to October 2010?

3 A Oh, yes.

4 Q Did any of those presentations
5 have subject matter related to a quote/unquote
6 "body packer"?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you know how many?

9 A I have no idea. The only -- if I
10 may clarify, the only presentations listed in my
11 CV are those that have been peer reviewed.
12 Other presentations would be, for example, to
13 police academies, high school students, rotary
14 clubs, et cetera, et cetera, and over the years,
15 these were numerous.

16 But those are all more or less
17 pretty much informal presentations, not formal
18 peer-reviewed presentations, which is what is
19 listed in my CV.

20 Q And then the ones listed on your
21 CV that were peer reviewed -- can you tell me
22 what does that mean, "peer reviewed"?

23 A Basically, if you are going to
24 make a presentation at a national meeting, you
25 must first submit an abstract. This is reviewed

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 by other forensic pathologists who then make a
3 decision as to whether or not it is acceptable,
4 scientifically sound. And then they further
5 decide whether it will be a platform
6 presentation -- that is, an actual talk and
7 slide show -- versus a poster presentations.

8 Q And is a poster presentation
9 exactly what it -- a poster literally gets put
10 up?

11 A Exactly. You might have, for
12 example, a poster that covers your entire wall
13 here (indicating). It will be in the format of
14 paper illustrations, summaries, abstracts, and
15 so forth, discussion.

16 Q I see on Page 8 of the CV,
17 Number 7, there's a presentation entitled "The
18 Body Packer Syndrome," and it looks like it was
19 before the American Academy of Forensic Science
20 in February 1981.

21 A Correct.

22 Q Do you recall the specific subject
23 matter of that presentations?

24 A That was it, the body packer
25 syndrome.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q Was there any specific area of the
3 body packer syndrome that you covered, or was it
4 a general presentation, if you can recall?

5 A Yeah, it was actually -- this was
6 subsequently published in that same journal as a
7 peer-reviewed article and it basically described
8 the body packer syndrome with the toxicology
9 levels of cocaine and so forth. . .

10 Q So this body packer syndrome
11 presentation was specifically related to
12 cocaine, or drugs in general?

13 A Well, the only ones we saw in
14 Miami in those days was cocaine. Subsequently,
15 we've seen heroin, too.

16 Q And for the record, can you
17 explain to us what "the body packer syndrome"
18 is?

19 A A "body packer" is basically a
20 person who swallows packages of drugs, usually
21 in -- well, in those days, from South America,
22 usually Columbia. They would swallow them,
23 board an airplane headed for Miami, and then
24 they would go to a hotel room, pass these
25 condoms or other packets, and retrieve the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 drugs. However, when they broke open, they
3 killed the person, and that's when the medical
4 examiner got involved, and that was what we were
5 describing in the fatalities.

6 Q Is there any limit or approximate
7 amount of cocaine that would be carried in the
8 normal body packet?

9 A In those days, we were generally
10 talking just under a kilogram altogether.

11 Q How many grams is that?

12 A A thousand. Others -- since then,
13 up to one-and-a-half kilos or more have been
14 reported.

15 Q So one kilogram is a thousand
16 grams, which is how many milligrams, a hundred
17 thousand?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And in that presentation, if you
20 can recall, did you present any conclusions in
21 terms of the amount of time it would take from
22 the leaking of the packet, or the breakage of
23 the packet to the time of death?

24 A That was pretty hard to really
25 come up with. We would see -- from other things

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 we knew about cocaine, people swallowing cocaine
3 and so forth, symptoms would usually begin 20 to
4 30 minutes after the drug would become absorbed.
5 Sometimes, if the packet completely broke open,
6 then within a half hour the person is having
7 seizures and is dead. If it was a very slow
8 leak, then symptoms can actually go on for some
9 period of time before they would actually die.

10 Q And what would be some of the
11 first symptoms that you would see in the case of
12 a slow leak?

13 A You would see a person who could
14 become very agitated, they could become
15 psychotic, high body temperatures. Those would
16 be some of the symptoms. Sometimes they became
17 incredibly constipated and they were saddled
18 with distended abdomens, because of swollen
19 intestines. There could be a variety of things
20 that happen to them.

21 Q And does your CV also list all
22 governmental testimony and symposia that you
23 have presented in the last ten years?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Now, would those also be peer

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 reviewed?

3 A No, they would be invited. For
4 example, the President's Commission on Organized
5 Crime, governor's councils, certain Grand Jury
6 presentations. These are organizations,
7 governmental organizations, that are requesting
8 knowledge of a particular topic, such as cocaine
9 toxicity, Quaaludes, that type of thing, which I
10 participated in.

11 Q On Page 12 of your CV under
12 Number 11, you gave -- I don't know if it was
13 testimony or a presentation to the National
14 Institute on Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Maryland on
15 July 9th through 10, 1991 entitled "Acute
16 Cocaine Intoxication: Current Methods of
17 Treatment."

18 Do you see that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was that testimony or some sort of
21 presentation? How would you describe that?

22 A That was mostly a presentation to
23 the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and it was
24 subsequently published under monograph. It's
25 listed NIH Publication 93-3498.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q And when you say "acute cocaine
3 intoxication," what does that mean, "acute"?

4 A Basically a surge of cocaine in
5 the blood, and it can cause a variety of things
6 to happen to a person. It can cause seizures
7 and sudden death; it can cause psychotic
8 reactions, which can lead to sudden death; it
9 can cause vascular problems, such as
10 hypertensive crisis, aortic dissections and
11 ruptured aneurysms, which can lead to immediate
12 death; and it can also lead to heart attack,
13 which can also kill you quickly.

14 Q And the presentation, obviously,
15 according to its title, involved, at that time,
16 current methods of treatment?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And at that time, what were, if
19 any, the methods of treatment for acute cocaine
20 intoxication?

21 A Basically the same as they are
22 today; treat the symptoms, whatever they may be.

23 Q What does that mean, "treat the
24 symptoms"?

25 A Well, if a person comes in with

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 110 fever, you try to cool them down; if they
3 are psychotic, you try to tranquilize them.
4 There are certain drugs you can or cannot use if
5 it's cocaine toxicity.

6 If a person is having seizures,
7 you would administer intravenous diazepam and/or
8 dilantin or other drugs to calm down the seizure
9 activity and so forth. That's all you can do.

10 Q So there's no antidote for
11 cocaine?

12 A No, unlike narcotics, there is no
13 antidote for cocaine.

14 Q If someone presents in the
15 emergency room who has ingested a certain amount
16 of cocaine, is there anything that you can do to
17 rid the body of the cocaine?

18 A Not effectively. If it's a body
19 packer, it requires surgery, generally. If they
20 are showing signs of cocaine toxicity, you must
21 operate immediately, because there's obviously a
22 package that's broken open or leaking. The only
23 chance of survival is to remove all the cocaine
24 from the entire gastrointestinal tract.

25 If there are no symptoms, you can

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 simply give them laxatives and follow up by
3 X-ray as they excrete them, but once they start
4 having symptoms, then you would have to get rid
5 of the cocaine.

6 I don't know if activated charcoal
7 is effective with cocaine or not, otherwise you
8 would have to get it out of the stomach or
9 wherever the cocaine happened to be.

10 If it's a mini-packer and they
11 simply swallowed cocaine without the package,
12 then gastric lavage would be the only way to get
13 it out.

14 Q And what is that, a "gastric
15 lavage"?

16 A Washing the stomach. Basically,
17 you put down a tube through the nose into the
18 stomach and flush with saline and draw out as
19 much as you can.

20 Q So then there are -- I'm just
21 trying to understand and condense what you said.
22 You can surgically remove a packet?

23 A If you can identify the packet, if
24 you can see the packet, yes, but otherwise, you
25 are going to be doing exploratory laparotomy and

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 going through the entire bowel to see if you can
3 find a packet.

4 Q And "laparotomy" is an operation
5 of the stomach?

6 A Well, opening up the abdomen and
7 inspecting everything that's in there.

8 Q Okay.

9 A But if there's no packet, then
10 there's not much you can do.

11 Q Well, if you can't find the packet
12 but the cocaine is in the stomach, you can try
13 to flush it out through some sort of tube?

14 A You could try, yes. I've never
15 seen that successfully done, but you can try.

16 Q Have you ever treated a person who
17 has ingested cocaine in an emergency room
18 situation?

19 A I'm not a treating physician.

20 Q In your October 2010 CV does it
21 list all of your publications in the last ten
22 years?

23 A Yes, yes.

24 Q Have there been any since
25 October 2010?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A No, there have not.

3 Q Do you know, as you sit here
4 today, what portion of your CV has been updated
5 since October 2010?

6 A Only some activities with the
7 National Association of Medical Examiners.

8 Q Did any of those activities have
9 to do with the body packers?

10 A No.

11 Q If you look at Page 14 of your CV,
12 Number 15, there is a publication entitled "The
13 Body Packer Syndrome: Toxicity Following
14 Ingestion of Illicit Drugs Packaged For
15 Transportation," and that's in the Journal of
16 Forensic Science in 1981.

17 A Correct. That was the formal
18 article following the presentation that was
19 given at the academy.

20 Q Okay.

21 And so the topic of the article
22 and the topic of the presentation were the same?

23 A Exactly. The platform
24 presentation was a preview for the article.

25 Q And then Number 17 on that same

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 page, also from 1981, is a publication entitled
3 "Cocaine Intoxication: Delirium and Death in a
4 Body Packer."

5 Can you tell me what the subject
6 matter on that article was?

7 A Sure. That was a case report
8 based on an individual who was a body packer, a
9 cocaine body packer, from Columbia, South
10 America, and he had passed all of the packets of
11 cocaine except for one which became, shall we
12 say, stuck in the right side of his colon, and
13 lingered there, as I recall, for approximately a
14 week and deteriorated, and the cocaine release
15 caused him to become psychotic, violent and die
16 suddenly.

17 It's a syndrome which my coauthor,
18 Dr. Fishbein, identified as "excited delirium"
19 due to cocaine.

20 Q Was that a new term of art at that
21 time, excited delirium?

22 A It was the first I had heard it.
23 He's the one who introduced me to the term.

24 Q Is he the one that coined the
25 term?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A No.

3 Q Now, earlier you testified that
4 the body packers could be carrying as much as
5 one kilogram of cocaine.

6 A Correct.

7 Q Now, would that be in one or more
8 than one package, or it depended?

9 A Oh, not one package, no. Numerous
10 packages, a hundred, hundred-thirty.

11 Q And how big would these separate
12 packages be?

13 A Each package would hold about 10
14 to 15 grams of cocaine.

15 Q And how big would that package be
16 in terms of size, if you could tell me?

17 A Oh, generally, they are about an
18 inch long and a half-inch diameter,
19 approximately. Very large pills to swallow.

20 Q Now, the publications that you
21 have listed in your CV, were they all peer
22 reviewed?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did you receive any comments on
25 the two that we discussed related to body

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 packing?

3 A I don't believe so. That was a
4 long time ago. I don't recall. I don't believe
5 so.

6 Q Now, since the two publications in
7 1981, have you done any further formal research
8 on the topic of body packing?

9 A Sure.

10 Q And when was the most recent time
11 you performed research on body packing?

12 A That would have been probably
13 around late 1990s when we published an article
14 on heroin body packing.

15 Let me see if I can find it for
16 you quickly.

17 (Witness perusing document.)

18 Here it is, Reference Number 88,
19 1997.

20 Q Are there significant distinctions
21 between heroin body packing and cocaine body
22 packing in terms of what kind of treatment can
23 be administered if there's a leak?

24 A Oh, yes.

25 Q What is the distinction?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A Well, heroin is a narcotic, and
3 therefore would be amenable to treatment with
4 Narcan -- N-A-R-C-A-N -- which is a direct
5 antagonist. So if you would inject Narcan into
6 a person having an opiate overdose, it will
7 counteract it. It's basically an antidote,
8 which would be life-saving. But heroin body
9 packers never make it to the emergency room.

10 Q Why is that?

11 A Because the heroin is too
12 valuable. They allow the person to die, then
13 they cut them open and remove the heroin
14 themselves. That's one of the big differences
15 between heroin and cocaine body packing.

16 Q I'd like now to turn to the cases
17 that you have listed at the end of your CV --

18 A For the record, that's not part of
19 my CV. It's a separate document, but I don't
20 consider that as part of my CV.

21 Q Sure.

22 Okay, so it begins after the last
23 page of your CV that is Page 32.

24 A Right.

25 Q Okay.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Now, does your -- I'll call it
3 your case list; is that fair?

4 A Well, it's a list of testimony,
5 anyway.

6 Q Okay.

7 Your list of testimony, does it
8 include all cases where you testified at trial
9 or by deposition in the last four years?

10 A If I was put under oath, it's
11 listed; court marshals, inquests, whatever.

12 Q Okay.

13 Do any of the cases in the last
14 four years -- are they specifically related to a
15 body packer?

16 A I don't recall body packer. What
17 we call mini-packer people -- a body packer is
18 somebody smuggling the drug in from another
19 country -- were other cases I've had. I don't
20 recall if I actually testified or not. They are
21 people who are being arrested by police and
22 swallow the cocaine to avoid the detection of
23 the drug, and they subsequently die due to the
24 toxicity. I've had a number of those cases. As
25 to whether I've testified or not, I don't

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 recall.

3 Q Okay, I want to make sure I
4 understand the distinction between a body packer
5 and a mini-packer.

6 With a mini-packer, does that mean
7 that the cocaine that was ingested was contained
8 within a bag?

9 A Could be.

10 Q But it's not necessary?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay.

13 So there are cases where you used
14 the phrase "mini-packer" where a person may have
15 just ingested cocaine itself?

16 A Correct. It could be in the form
17 of a powder or it could be crack cocaine or it
18 could be cocaine in packets that were -- where
19 the person had an intent to sell the packets or
20 purchased the packets, either one, but they had
21 the packets of cocaine, and so in order to avoid
22 police detection they swallowed the packets of
23 whatever they had.

24 Q In your review of the records in
25 this case, did Mr. Bradway swallow the cocaine

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 itself or within a package?

3 A As far as we can tell, he probably
4 did both. As I recall -- as I understand the
5 sequence of events, when he was at the point --
6 when the police were at the scene, at the home,
7 he spit out a package as well as separately a
8 white substance. After he died and the autopsy
9 was done, they looked for a packet, the remnants
10 of a packet, and couldn't find one.

11 Q What does that signify to you?

12 A That unless he had a bowel
13 movement at some time after he was in the
14 hospital, that he swallowed -- it's hard to
15 reconcile. He would have to -- most likely, I
16 think the packet was missed. It was just not
17 found, because it's a very -- when you have a
18 lot of cocaine present, as he did, it kills very
19 quickly, and so I'd be surprised that there is
20 no cocaine packet.

21 Q So it is your testimony that you
22 think one possibility is that the medical
23 examiner missed the packet?

24 A Or whoever is looking through the
25 intestinal contents, yes, or that he passed it

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 somewhere in the hospital. He was in the
3 hospital, I think, altogether for about seven
4 hours or something, so I don't know.

5 Q In the list of testimony that's
6 part of Exhibit W-1, are there any cases in
7 which you gave testimony involving an allegation
8 that there was a failure to get medical
9 attention related to a cocaine overdose?

10 A I don't recall that I testified to
11 that. I know I've had cases where that
12 allegation was made, but whether I testified
13 subsequently at trial, I don't recall.

14 Q Do you recall the most recent case
15 where that allegation was made?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you recall in the last four
18 years how many cases you have been involved with
19 in which the allegation of -- there was an
20 allegation that there was a failure to obtain
21 medical attention after someone ingested
22 cocaine?

23 A I couldn't tell you. I don't keep
24 records of that.

25 Q Okay.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Do you recall any of the
3 conclusions that you reached in cases in which
4 you have been involved where there was an
5 allegation that a party failed to get someone
6 medical attention after they ingested cocaine?

7 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry,
8 could you repeat the question.

9 (The requested portion of
10 the record was read by the court
11 reporter.)

12 A Generally the conclusions I
13 reached is that had they gotten them medical
14 attention, the outcome would not have changed
15 because there is no antidote for cocaine. Once
16 the symptoms begin, you can't treat them,
17 especially a true overdose.

18 Q How would you define an
19 "overdose"?

20 A An overdose of cocaine is
21 generally marked by the presence of grand-mal
22 seizures, and if it's a nonfatal overdose, the
23 seizures are very limited and transient and over
24 with by the time the person gets to the
25 emergency room. If it's a fatal overdose, the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 seizure is usually the terminal event. They die
3 in the police station.

4 Q So if someone ingested some amount
5 of cocaine, you testified earlier, that it is
6 possible -- although there's no antidote for the
7 cocaine, there is potential treatment in that
8 you can try to remove the cocaine from the
9 stomach, for example?

10 A If you can see a drug packet
11 there, otherwise you would have to presumably
12 try and lavage the drug out of the stomach. I
13 guess you could theoretically go in, operate and
14 empty the stomach that way. Of course, I've
15 never heard of that being done.

16 Q And you are not familiar or aware
17 of the success of using charcoal?

18 A I have no idea of charcoal ever
19 working.

20 Q And exactly how would the
21 charcoal -- it would be administered by the
22 mouth?

23 A I'm not really sure. I think it's
24 generally administered by a nasogastric tube,
25 basically injected into the nasogastric tube so

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 it goes through the gastrointestinal tract and
3 finds drugs. With a very highly water-soluble
4 drug like cocaine, I don't know if it would be
5 effective. I just don't know. You would have
6 to ask a clinician that.

7 Q Do you recall when you were
8 retained by Ms. DeJong's firm for this matter?

9 A I believe it was late summer or
10 early fall of 2010.

11 Q And by whom were you retained?

12 A By Ms. DeJong.

13 Q By her firm?

14 A Correct. September 17th is when I
15 received the initial materials -- well, the
16 covering letter is dated September 17, 2010.

17 Q And before that date, you had some
18 conversations with Ms. DeJong?

19 A Right, actually in August of 2010.

20 Q So it was at or about August of
21 2010 that you were retained?

22 A Basically it was inquisitorial to
23 whether I would be willing to be retained in
24 August, and then I was retained in September.

25 Q I understand.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 And you are being compensated in
3 accordance with the fee schedule that's the last
4 page of W-1?

5 A Correct.

6 Q And what was it that -- let me
7 take a step back.

8 Other than Ms. DeJong, did you
9 speak with anybody else from her firm with
10 regard to --

11 A No, not that I recall.

12 Q So your primary contact concerning
13 this matter has been with Ms. DeJong?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And what did she ask you to do?

16 A Determine the cause of death and
17 to see if the hour-and-a-half delay from the
18 time he was arrested to the time he got to the
19 hospital had any significant impact or affected
20 the outcome of Mr. Bradway.

21 Q What conclusion did you reach?

22 A No, it did not.

23 Q Other than the items that are
24 listed at the very beginning of your report, did
25 you review any other data, information or

C. Wetli, M.D.

documents?

A No. As I said, the only thing I reviewed that's not listed in my report is the report of Dr. Blum, B-L-U-M.

Q And the information that you reviewed you received from Ms. DeJong; correct?

A Correct.

Q In forming your conclusion, did you review any literature?

A No.

Q Can you tell me, then, your conclusion is that the period of time between Mr. Bradway's arrest and the time at which he reached the hospital, that, I'll call it, "delay" didn't have any impact on the ability of his life to be saved?

A Correct.

Q Okay.

And what do you base that conclusion on?

A Basically the toxicology. He's got phenomenally high levels of cocaine in his system. He's got -- people who die with a psychotic reaction to cocaine generally have

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 about .8 milligrams per liter of cocaine in the
3 blood. People who die with seizures from a true
4 overdose of cocaine, the average is about
5 5 milligrams per liter. He's got 6.5.

6 He's got incredibly high levels in
7 the brain. He's still has 2 grams remaining in
8 his stomach. He's got very high levels of
9 cocaine metabolite in his blood and about half
10 that in the brain. He's also been in the
11 hospital for a number of hours, so he's got
12 incredibly high levels. He's been absorbing a
13 lot of cocaine.

14 Q Can you determine at what point --
15 or did you determine at what point Mr. Bradway
16 ingested the cocaine?

17 A All we know is what the police
18 report said. They saw him chewing on something
19 and they applied the Taser twice, forcing him to
20 spit out what they thought was all that he had
21 ingested, and he would have had to have ingested
22 it all that the point.

23 Q Okay.

24 So, I just want to make sure I
25 understand you correctly. Is it your testimony

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 that Mr. Bradway ingested all of the cocaine at
3 one time?

4 MS. DEJONG: I'm objecting.

5 I don't believe he testified to
6 that. You are having him guess at
7 this point.

8 A Right. All I can do is rely on
9 the police reports. They said they saw him
10 ingest it -- chewing something. They told him
11 to spit it out. They Tasered him twice. To my
12 knowledge, they never saw him ingest anything
13 else after that incident. So if that's true,
14 then he would have had to have ingested it all
15 at one time.

16 Q So looking at your report, and
17 just -- I guess in understanding the timeline, I
18 think you would agree that he was arrested, at
19 least according to the report, at 10:25 a.m. on
20 the morning of June 8th.

21 A Correct.

22 Q And that the police observed him
23 ingesting some amount of cocaine.

24 A Correct.

25 Q And nobody is disputing that he

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 ingested some amount of cocaine.

3 A Correct.

4 Q Now, in your report -- and I'm
5 looking at the last paragraph on the second
6 page, and I'm just going to read it into the
7 record, the first couple of sentences.

8 It says: "In the case of
9 Mr. Bradway, it was obvious that he had ingested
10 some cocaine at the time of his arrest.
11 However, if it were a lethal ingestion of
12 cocaine at that time he would have had the
13 sudden onset of seizures within a half an hour
14 after ingestion."

15 So I guess I just want to be clear
16 that we don't know at the time of his arrest
17 whether he ingested the cocaine within or
18 without some other kind of packet or package?

19 A Let me explain to you, if I can
20 clarify.

21 Q Sure.

22 A People who are mini-packers, when
23 they don't have a package of cocaine, they just
24 have the powder, and they are about to be
25 arrested by the police and they swallow that

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 powder to avoid detection, the usual story is
3 they are arrested, taken to the police station,
4 and about a half-hour after they are -- after
5 that first encounter, about a half-hour or so,
6 they suddenly go into seizures which are fatal.
7 So it's about a half hour after the ingestion.

8 The only thing that makes sense
9 here is he ingested some cocaine at that time,
10 but he had to have ingested a packet of cocaine
11 which later on broke and which was not
12 discovered at the autopsy, because we know to
13 get these lethal levels, these very high levels
14 of cocaine and they induce seizures, it's
15 generally about a half-hour after the drug has
16 actually been ingested.

17 That's the only thing that makes
18 any sense. Had he ingested all the cocaine at
19 that time, and had it been absorbed within a
20 half hour, he would have died in the police
21 station. He would not have made it to the
22 hospital.

23 Q Are there any factors which may
24 delay the effect of cocaine?

25 A Not that I know of.

C. Wetli, M.D.

Q So your genetics or your ability to metabolize or your own tolerance for the drug --

A Not when it comes to overdoses such as we see here. There are some genetic differences in the way males and females handle cocaine, but generally in relationship to the excited delirium, not to the overdose.

Q So the 30-minute time period between -- is it ingestion and the seizure, is that 30 minutes the maximum amount of time?

A All I can say is it's approximately 30 minutes, because nobody is sitting there with a stopwatch, and ingestion, as I said, could be swallowed, sometimes it's due to vaginal installation of cocaine, same thing happens, about a half hour.

Q Is there a distinction between "ingestion" and "absorption"?

A Yes.

Q What is that distinction?

A Well, "ingestion" -- I can swallow the packet of cocaine, so I'm ingesting it, but it's not being absorbed until that packet

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 breaks. Then, it's being absorbed.

3 Q If you swallow a certain amount of
4 cocaine outside of a packet, just the actual
5 drug, how long does it take to begin to absorb
6 into the stomach?

7 A Like all water-soluble drugs, they
8 will start to be absorbed in 20 minutes. But
9 cocaine, you can get variations in there because
10 cocaine also constricts blood vessels. Very
11 high concentrations can also dilate blood
12 vessels and cause bleeding, so there's some
13 variation there, but generally, it's about
14 20 minutes, like most water-soluble drugs.

15 Q And then it's 20 to 30 minutes
16 from the time of absorption, if it's a lethal
17 amount of cocaine, before you have the first
18 seizure?

19 A From the time of ingestion.

20 Q Okay, that's what I'm trying to
21 make sure of.

22 A Right. No, it's the time of
23 ingestion.

24 Q So it would be approximately ten
25 minutes, plus or -- obviously, like you said,

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 there's no stopwatch, but approximately ten
3 minutes after the drug begins to absorb before
4 the seizures would begin?

5 A Well, the drug is going to start
6 getting absorbed right away, but it might be
7 about 20 minutes before we can see detectable
8 levels. When they take volunteers, for example,
9 give them cocaine, they draw the blood at
10 various time intervals. It's usually about
11 20 minutes before the blood levels start to rise
12 rapidly.

13 And again -- and these data on
14 time of absorption and so forth are based on
15 volunteers who are given a limited amount of
16 cocaine under a controlled laboratory
17 environment. What I'm talking about are people
18 who are known to have ingested the cocaine, and
19 no blood levels are taken, but then they
20 suddenly have a seizure and die. It's much more
21 rapid, probably because they are taking a lot
22 more cocaine.

23 Q Right.

24 Are there any factors that can
25 slow the rate of absorption?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A Not that I'm aware of, no.

3 Q And is it true, though, that the
4 rate of absorption in the stomach would be
5 slower than, for example, if you put the cocaine
6 in your nose or your mouth?

7 A No, it's pretty much the same.
8 Again, you are going to be getting less cocaine
9 in the nose or the mouth, because, first of all,
10 using less cocaine and secondly, you are getting
11 the vasoconstriction of the blood vessels. That
12 doesn't necessarily happen in the stomach.

13 Q In the documents that you
14 reviewed, is it your understanding that
15 Mr. Bradway was Tasered by the police?

16 A Yeah, in drive-stun mode, that's
17 correct.

18 Q Now, would the Taser have any
19 impact on the absorption rate of the cocaine
20 into Mr. Bradway's system?

21 A Not at all.

22 Q And you reviewed the hospital
23 records; correct?

24 A Correct.

25 MR. TELESKA: Would you

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 mark this W-2, please.

3 (Exhibit W-2, Hospital
4 records for Mr. Bradway, was
5 marked for identification, as of
6 this date.)

7 Q Dr. Wetli, I am going to show you
8 what's been marked Exhibit 2. Do you recognize
9 those records (handing)?

10 A (Witness peruses document.)
11 These appear to be the hospital
12 records I reviewed concerning Mr. Bradway.

13 Q Now, it's your opinion that
14 Mr. Bradway, at the time of his arrest, must
15 have swallowed a packet of cocaine that was
16 intact; correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And that at some point after his
19 arrest, the package ruptured.

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay.

22 And in your report on Page 3, in
23 the last paragraph you wrote: "The packet began
24 to leak and finally ruptured after he" --
25 Mr. Bradway -- "had already arrived at the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 hospital."

3 A Correct.

4 Q What do you base that conclusion
5 on?

6 A Because had he had it rupture at
7 the time that he was arrested, then he would
8 have died at the police station. He would not
9 have made it to the hospital.

10 Q But it could have ruptured
11 sometime between the time of his arrest and the
12 time he arrived in the emergency room.

13 A It's possible it could have
14 started leaking at that particular point, but it
15 wouldn't have been a bursting with a sudden
16 release of 5 grams of cocaine into him at that
17 point.

18 Q So it's your conclusion that the
19 packet didn't leak, it actually ruptured, or you
20 don't know?

21 A There's no way to know for sure.

22 Q Okay.

23 So there's no way for you to know
24 whether or not the package first started to leak
25 and combined with the cocaine that Mr. Bradway

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 ingested outside of the packet?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And if you look at -- I tried to
5 make this easier for us, the first flagged
6 page --

7 A Correct.

8 Q -- which should be -- on the top
9 it's "Report of Consultation by" the consultant
10 is Rajesh -- R-A-J-E-S-H -- Patel, M.D.

11 A Right.

12 Q And if you look at that report,
13 about midway down the history, it says: "Upon
14 arrival to the emergency room, he" --
15 Mr. Bradway -- "was extremely agitated and
16 Ativan 2 milligrams IN was given." Do you see
17 that?

18 A Correct.

19 Q So the fact that Mr. Bradway upon
20 arrival to the emergency room was extremely
21 agitated, what does that signify to you?

22 A He's having some cocaine toxicity.

23 Q Okay.

24 Now, do we know whether that's
25 related to the package leaking or being ruptured

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 or whether it may have been the cocaine that he
3 ingested outside of the package?

4 A It could have been a combination
5 of both. Shortly after that, about 15 minutes
6 later, he starts having seizures. So it
7 indicates it would be more likely that the
8 package is beginning to rupture.

9 Q Okay.

10 And based on your review of the
11 medical records, can you determine that
12 15 minutes, what that time period is measured
13 from?

14 MS. DEJONG: Do you
15 understand the question?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 A From the time they gave him the
18 Ativan, apparently. That's the way I interpret
19 the record, anyway.

20 Q Now, if you look at -- I believe
21 it's the third tab --

22 A (Witness complies.)

23 Q -- which is the emergency room
24 nursing record; is that correct?

25 A Yes.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 MR. TELESKA: It looks like
3 this page here (indicating).

4 MS. DEJONG: Yes, I have
5 it.

6 Q So at the very top, it says that
7 he arrived at 12:04 --

8 A Correct.

9 Q -- to the emergency room. And in
10 the right column under "General Appearance," it
11 records severe distress and that Mr. Bradway was
12 agitated; correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q So again, what does that signify
15 to you?

16 A Well, in context of this case,
17 that he's having cocaine toxicity.

18 Q And if you look at the next page,
19 it lists medications on the left-hand side, and
20 the first time that the Ativan appears to be
21 administered was at 12:50; correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q So then it would be -- according
24 to the record of Dr. Patel, the first seizure
25 occurred 15 minutes after the first

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 administration of the Ativan?

3 A Correct.

4 Q So that would have been about
5 1:05 p.m.?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Earlier in your testimony you
8 stated that in a case where the hospital can
9 determine that there actually is a packet in the
10 stomach, it could be removed?

11 A If they could find it, yes.

12 Q And how would they find it?

13 A You would -- well, by X-ray, you
14 would have to get a leakage of fluid into the
15 package itself and then you would see what's --
16 it's called a double condom sign, you get air
17 and fluid in there which would outline the
18 packets; you could see it that way. Otherwise,
19 you might not be able to see it.

20 With today's technology of MRIs
21 and CTs, I don't know if they would pick it up
22 or not.

23 Q So when you say you could see it,
24 how would you be able to see it?

25 A On X-ray, an outline of the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 packet. You don't see all of the packets, but
3 you see some of them.

4 Q In Mr. Bradway's case, do you know
5 whether or not the packet he swallowed could
6 have been seen with an X-ray?

7 A I have no idea.

8 Q We don't know what kind of packet
9 it was; correct?

10 A Exactly. And as far as I know,
11 they did not take any abdominal X-rays; they
12 just took chest X-rays.

13 MR. TELESKA: I have no
14 further questions.

15 (Time noted: 11:42 a.m.)
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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

STATE OF NEW YORK)

:ss

COUNTY OF)

I, CHARLES WETLI, M.D., hereby certify
that I have read the transcript of my testimony
taken under oath in my deposition of April 13,
2011; that the transcript is a true and complete
record of my testimony, and that the answers on
the record as given by me are true and correct.

CHARLES WETLI, M.D.

Signed and subscribed to before me this

----- day of -----, 2011.

Notary Public, State of New York

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Charles Wetli, M.D.	Mr. Telesca	4

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W-2	Hospital records for Mr. Bradway	48

ERRATA SHEET FOR THE TRANSCRIPT OF:

Case Name: Bradway v. Town of Southampton, et al

Deposition Date: April 13, 2011

Deponent: Charles Wetli, M.D.

Place: 1425 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, New York

CORRECTIONS

PG	LN	NOW READS	SHOULD READ	REASON FOR
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Date Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this day of 2011.

(NOTARY PUBLIC)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LORI ANNE CURTIS, a Notary Public in
and for the State of New York, do hereby
certify:

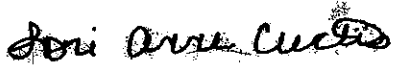
THAT the witness(es) whose testimony is
hereinbefore set forth, was duly sworn by me;
and

THAT the within transcript is a true
record of the testimony given by said
witness(es).

I further certify that I am not related,
either by blood or marriage, to any of the
parties in this action; and

THAT I am in no way interested in the
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 23rd day of April, 2011.



LORI ANNE CURTIS